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Correspondence, Nathan Simmons, John C. Stennis, February 4, 1972

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Nathan Simmons
912 Eleventh Avenue South
Columbus, Mississippi
39701

The Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

As a concerned citizen I would like to praise your efforts to obtain information on desegregation in the schools of the north and south. I recently read in the Commercial Appeal (Memphis Tenn.) of the Department of H. E. W.'s reluctance in giving you the information you requested from them. I think the Supreme Court was exceeding its authority in making the desegregation laws. I also feel the Department of H. E. W. is covering up ^{the} fact that these laws are not being ^{enforced} in other parts of the country as they have in the South.

As a citizen of Mississippi I am sure you can see through the propaganda that the news media puts out about Mississippi having such discrimination. I am sure you know that it is not as bad as they make it.

I would like to wish you the best of luck in obtaining the information you need and I think you have done a superior job in representing Mississippi.

Respectfully yours
Nathan Simmons

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

February 4, 1972

Mr. Nathan Simmons
912 Eleventh Avenue South
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

Dear Nathan:

This will thank you for your recent letter with reference to the serious problems our schools are facing.

The lack of concern of officials in Washington and the Federal courts in these situations is appalling. They seem to be much more interested in satisfying some vague, idealistic goal of a Federal, sociological bureaucrat, or someone else far removed from the problem, than they are in the education and welfare of our young people. I have been working against these irresponsible actions for many years but unfortunately thus far have not been extremely successful.

The only way we in the South will ever get relief from these punitive and disruptive demands of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Courts is by overwhelming public pressure from throughout the Nation to demand it. This pressure is beginning to develop because of court ordered and administrative actions against schools in the North and East. Hopefully this new push will result in the return of the administration of our schools to local and State Boards of Education where it belongs. Then and only then will there be a return to the primary purpose of our schools - the education of our young people.

Again my appreciation for your letter and with warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS/hsh